ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[76]   An apparatus and method for changing over from an active
network interface (NIF) to its standby NIF. The network
system configuration may include at least two server
computers, each having active and standby NIFs, the
active NIF connected to first communication equipment
and the standby NIF connected to second communication
equipment. Both the first communication equipment and
the second communication equipment are connected to a
router. When at least one server computer detects a
fault occurring in the path between its active network
interface and the router, the server computer changes
the IP address assignment from its active NIF to its
standby NIF. Then, the server computer transmits an ARP
request from its standby NIF to the router in order to
make the router change the MAC address registration
mapped to the above IP address, retained in the ARP
cache of the router, from the MAC address assigned to
its active NIF to the MAC address assigned to its
standby NIF.